

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to express outrage over Republican efforts to take off the air a commercial that has been running by many of the labor organizations that is critical of the Republican record on Medicare.

As we know, many times Democrats have gotten up here in the House to point out that the cuts proposed by the Republican leadership in Medicare are going to hurt America's seniors and ultimately destroy and eliminate the Medicare Program as we know it. This is nothing more than another effort by the Republican leadership to gag the efforts of working Americans. Essentially, labor unions represent working Americans, who want to tell the truth about Medicare and what the Republicans are proposing to do to a program that is important for seniors, to working people, to those who have to go into nursing homes.

This is not the first time we have seen a Republican effort to gag those who want to speak the truth on the Medicare issue. When the Medicare debate began in my committee, the Committee on Commerce, there was only one hearing on the issue and the senior citizens who showed up to want to speak were arrested. Once again the Republicans are trying to gag the truth on Medicare.

THE PASSING OF HON. HAMILTON FISH, JR., A FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM NEW YORK

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to inform this body of the passing of our former colleague who was one of the outstanding Members of this body in this century.

Hamilton Fish, Jr., served in this Chamber for over a quarter of a century, from his first election in 1968 until his retirement in 1994. Throughout his career in this House, Ham Fish earned respect on both sides of the aisle and throughout the Nation for his commitments to civil rights and justice, and to commonsense principles of government.

As a member of the House Judiciary Committee, the spotlight of the Nation shown on his wisdom during the hearings on the impeachment of President Nixon. In later years, Ham Fish served as ranking Republican on that committee, where he was known for championing the revision of immigration law and of continuing the battle against prejudice, discrimination, and hate.

Ham Fish brought to this Chamber a sense of dignity and a sense of decency. As the scion of a family whose record of public service goes back to the days of the American Revolution, he compiled a record of which we can all be proud.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have served with Ham Fish, and I was privileged that Ham was my friend.

To his widow, Mary Ann, to his four children, and to his grandchildren, we extend our deepest condolences. Ham Fish was a true gentleman, and he will be missed.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, the so-called Republican reform bill on campaign finance attempts to solve the problem of too much money in politics by putting much more money in politics.

The Republican bill raises the amount that wealthy contributors can give to Federal candidates to \$72,500 a year. The average American family of four makes \$48,000 a year. Clearly, the Republicans are out of touch with the average working American families.

In sharp contrast, the Democratic bill limits the amount of money in politics by voluntarily limiting contributions, expenditures, and soft money. We need a vote on this bill. This fall, when the American people go to vote, they need to know whether their candidate supports putting more money into politics or limiting the amount of money in politics.

REFORM WELFARE

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, last week this House once again passed historic welfare reform legislation. Twice before we have passed welfare reform, but twice the President has blocked that reform with his veto pen, even though candidate Clinton said he wanted to end welfare as we know it. Remember that? Mr. President, please tear down this wall to full participation in our society.

Seldom has a government devised a program which has devastated so many lives in this country and only very, very rarely has the law of unintended consequences been so brutally applied. Families have been ripped apart. Attempts to work and save have been penalized, and generation after generation of children have grown up without seeing an adult go to work. This miserable welfare system must not continue. Let us replace welfare with work. Let us replace rigid bureaucracy with community and compassion, and let us replace vetoes with a signing ceremony.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYWORTH). The Chair would remind all Members it is appropriate to address remarks to the Chair and not to other persons.

UNITED STATES FINANCES CHINA'S SELLING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, in 1995 China was found guilty of selling nuclear weapons to Pakistan. China was then found guilty of building poison gas factories in Iran. Now the CIA tells us that China is selling missiles to Syria. What gets me is we are financing this with \$40 billion a year pumped through most-favored-nation trade status.

What is next here, Congress: Tax breaks for Chinese heroin? How about a good old-fashioned Chinese Communist Party fundraiser on the East Lawn?

I say while we keep turning the other cheek, China is starting to point missiles right at our assets. With friends like this, who needs enemies?

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of any money we have left in the Pentagon budget.

GROWTH RATE OF WELFARE SPENDING ASTRONOMICALLY OUTPACED GROWTH IN POPULATION

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, since 1950 the population of the United States has increased from 151 million to roughly 260 million. This works out to a 72-percent increase.

Also, since 1950, social welfare spending at all levels of Government has increased from \$18.8 billion a year to \$324 billion a year. This is an increase of 1,623 percent.

In other words, the growth rate of welfare spending has astronomically outpaced the growth in population. Many liberals would argue that this probably is a good thing. But my question is this: What have we purchased with this huge investment in social welfare?

Broken families; a destroyed work ethic; rampant illegitimacy; and continued poverty. Not only is the modern welfare state economically unsound, it is spiritually and morally unsound.

We are doing our part to enact serious reform of welfare. It is time for Bill Clinton to show leadership, to keep his promises to end welfare as we know it.

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AMERICA NEEDS A NEW GARDENER

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, what a contrast in Speaker GINGRICH's gardening abilities. When it comes to Medicare, he says, let it wither on the vine.